THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) The President of Sri Lanka, during his recent State visit to India, briefed the Indian leadership on his Government's approach to the peace process. He also apprised the Government of India of recent attacks on Sri Lankan security forces and other ceasefire violations. Both sides deplored violations of the ceasefire, which could undermine the prospects for peace in Sri Lanka. The Indian side welcomed the Sri Lankan Government's offer for early resumption of peace talks. Both sides emphasized the need for the strict observance of the ceasefire and immediate resumption of talks aimed at strengthening the cease-fire. India reiterated its support for a process of seeking a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all sections of Shri Lankan society within the framework of an undivided Sir Lanka and consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.

Code of conductor for electronic media

3542. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue any guidelines or code of conduct to the electronic media in the matter of programmes telecast by them;

(b) whether these guidelines cover subjects like obscenity, superstitions, misrepresentations through advertisements, crime reporting or any of them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI) (a) to(c) Yes, Sir. The Government constituted a Committee to review the Programme Code and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder and the Guidelines for certification of films prescribed under the Cinematograph Act, 1952. The Committee has been given a mandate to prepare a draft Broadcast Code. This covers subjects like obscenity, superstition, string operations, telecast of films, violence, sex, religion, news and current affairs policy etc.